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Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
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Note verbale dated 4 April 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, transmitting drafting proposals on the revised draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1)

The Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to transmit the amendment proposals by Australia in relation to the revised draft Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1) (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations requests that the attached document be circulated as an official document of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

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Annex

Proposals by Australia for amendment of the revised draft Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1)

Proposals for amendment of Part II

Suggested amendment to paragraph 2, part II:

2. To establish **or designate** ~~, where they do not exist, national coordination agencies or bodies and the~~ **an** appropriate institutional structure **or arrangement** responsible for policy guidance, research and monitoring of efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. **This could involve the establishment of a national coordination agency or body, and** should ~~include~~ **cover** aspects of the spread, control, circulation, trade, collection, destruction and reduction of small arms and light weapons.

Suggested amendments to paragraphs 17 and 18, part II:

17. To regularly review the stocks of small arms and light weapons held by **governments** ~~armed forces, police and other authorized bodies~~ and to ensure that such stocks **declared by competent national authorities as** surplus to requirements are clearly identified **by them**, and that programmes for the responsible ~~and expeditious~~ disposal **of such stocks**, normally through destruction, ~~of such stocks~~ are established and implemented and that such stocks are adequately safeguarded until disposal. **If surplus stocks are disposed of through export, such exports should only take place in accordance with the export provisions in section II of this Programme of Action. When assessing whether it has a surplus of small arms, each State could take into account such factors as: the size and structure of military and security forces; the geopolitical and geostrategic context, including the size of territory and population; the internal and external security situation; and international commitments, including those relating to international peacekeeping operations.**

18. To destroy surplus small arms and light weapons **designated for destruction** using **cost-effective, efficient** ~~internationally accepted and effective procedures and in accordance with effective~~ and environmentally sound procedures. ~~Surplus weapons retained for other purposes will be permanently disabled and decommissioned.~~

Suggested amendment to paragraph 20, part II

20. To seriously consider the prohibition of unrestricted trade and **unrestricted** private ownership of small arms and light weapons ~~specifically designed for military purposes~~. **Trade in and private ownership of fully automatic military assault weapons should be subject to particularly strong restrictions**.

Suggested amendment to paragraph 28, part II

28. To encourage regional and subregional action on small arms and light weapons in order to introduce or strengthen relevant laws, regulations and administrative procedures. **To encourage the adherence to and implementation of such laws, regulations and administrative procedures, and the provision of assistance for doing so if necessary.**

Suggested new paragraph, to be added after paragraph 28, part II

28bis. To encourage states to implement regional and subregional mechanisms, where appropriate, to promote safe, effective stockpile management and storage practices for small arms and light weapons.

Suggested amendment to paragraph 37, part II

37. To develop common understandings of the basic issues and the scope of the problems related to illicit arms brokering with a view to regulating the activities of those engaged in arms brokering, **including through the development of model legislation on brokering**.

Proposals for amendment of Part III

Suggested amendment to paragraph 8, part III

8. **Regional and** international programmes for specialist training on small arms stockpile management and security should be developed. The United Nations and other appropriate international or regional organizations should consider establishing and developing training facilities and programmes in this area.

Suggested amendment to paragraph 11, part III

11. States undertake to cooperate with each other, including on the basis of existing regional legally binding instruments **or other agreements and arrangements** and with relevant international, regional and intergovernmental organizations, in tracing illicit small arms and light weapons, particularly by strengthening mechanisms based on the exchange of information.

Proposal for amendment of Part IV

Suggested amendment to paragraph 1d, part IV

1d. To consider the elaboration of an international instrument ~~to restrict the production and trade in small arms and light weapons to registered manufacturers and brokers duly licensed or otherwise authorized by governments~~ **on the brokering of small arms and light weapons**.